## Amendments to the Claims

### Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for classifying data, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving input data for classification;
defining one or more transformations of the input data;
applying energy minimization to the one or more transforms of the input data;
producing at least a rate of change in energy in response to energy minimization; and
classifying the input data using at least the stress rate value.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of applying energy minimization comprises using individual differences multidimensional scaling applied to the input data.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of applying energy minimization comprises using a finite element method analysis applied to the input data.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of applying energy minimization comprises using simulated annealing applied to the input data.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of producing a source space output and classifying the input data using the source space output.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of producing a common space output and classifying the input data using the common space output.

Claims 7 - 43. (Cancelled)

2